AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

WE DO OUR PART

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1193 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1934 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary | VOL. 24, NO. 8

Let the mind and tongue and press be free. A suppression of error is no aid to the cause of truth.—William Lloyd Garrison.

Green Punctures False Propaganda Against the Child Labor Amendment

A. F. of L. Chief, in Letter to Kentucky Legislature, Denies Charges That Amendment Is Socialistic and That It Would "Nationalize" Children or Take Them Away from Their Parents.

Declares the American Federation of Labor Sponsored the Proposal and Introduced It in the United States Congress—Cites President Roosevelt as Favoring Its Adoption and Quotes Dr. John A. Ryan's Answer to Critics of the Amendment.

Washington.—Vigorous condemnation of false statements made by subversive propagandists in their frenzied attempt to develop sentiment against the child labor amendment to the Federal Constitution featured a letter sent by William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, to every member of the Kentucky Legislature before which the amendment is pending.

The amendment declares that "Congress shall have the power to limit, regulate, and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age."

Mr. Green characterized as "indefensible misrepresentation" the charge that the amendment proposes to "nationalize children or to take them away from their families and denied the claims that it is a socialist measure and that one woman was its author.

He asserted that the amendment was originally drafted by a number of organizations called together by the American Federation of Labor after the Supreme Court of the United States had decided that the child labor laws enacted by Congress were unconstitutional and was introduced in the United States Congress by the Federation.

He also stressed the fact that the amendment is now favored by President Roosevelt, and cited Dr. John A. Ryan's trenchant reply to the unreasonable opponents of the amendment that Congress would make extravagant use of the proposed power to curb child labor exploiters.

The text of Mr. Green's letter follows:

Unsubstantiated Claims

"I feel it my duty as a friend of the children to protest against the propaganda that is being made by various interests in Kentucky against the Child Labor Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

"Not a claim made by those opposing the amendment can be substantiated in any manner. They all seem to forget that every State in the Union has Child Labor Laws but lack uniformity.

"Nationalization" Canard

"To read the statements made by the opposition, it would appear that there are now no child labor laws in the United States and that children are being made to place in the hands of Congress the right to nationalize children. This is so ridiculous that it not believe the members of the Kentucky Legislature will give it any consideration.

"It is also said that it will place in the hands of Congress the right to take away the children from their families. This is a most indefensible misrepresentation. It is also said that it is a socialistic move and one woman is named as its author.

Amendment Originated by A. F. of L.

"I wish you to know the truth.

"After the Supreme Court of the United States in 1922 declared a child labor law unconstitutional, Samuel Gompers, then President of the American Federation of Labor, called a meeting of representatives of labor and kindred organizations. Among them were the Women's Trade Union League; the League of Women Voters, The National Child Labor Committee, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, The National Catholic Welfare Council and representatives of the government.

"These representatives prepared the child labor amendment and submitted it to the late Senator J. Medill McCormick of Illinois who introduced it in the Senate.

Adopted by Congress

"In 1924 the Amendment as proposed by the American Federation of Labor and other organizations believed in protecting child life was reported favorably to the Senate and was passed by two-thirds vote. It was also adopted by the House by the necessary two-thirds majority.

Approved by Roosevelt

"After the death of Samuel Gompers, I continued the work begun by the American Federation of Labor and have urged all States to ratify the amendment.

"In this work, we have had the support of many organizations and leading public men. President Roosevelt has signed the various States in the interest of the children by ratifying the Amendment. He expressed his hearty approval in a letter sent to Mrs. Jacob Brown of Boston, Mass., which reads as follows:

"As always, I read your very interesting letter of the 13th with a great deal of pleasure.

"Of course, I am in favor of the Child Labor Amendment. I think it is the right direction was achieved by demonstrating the simplicity of its application to industry under NRA. Those connected with industries which had been the worst labor offenders were the first to see the wisdom of that step.

"It is my opinion that the matter hardly requires further academic discussion. The right path has been definitely shown."

Socialist Bugaboo Denied

"The Governors of many States have made the same recommendations to their respective legislatures.

"The folly of charging that Socialists were responsible for the present position of the Child Labor Amendment is positively untrue.

Dr. Ryan's Answer to Critics

"Does anyone believe that Congress would go further than any of the States? Father John A. Ryan, when Director of the Department of Social Action of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, in answering the assertion that Congress would go further than any of the States said, saw:

"'The language used by many of the opponents of the Child Labor Amendment to characterize the legislative and executive departments of the Federal Government is extraordinary and insulting. It implies that the average member of Congress is either a fool or a knave and the average administrative official is arrogant tyrant. * * After all, the Government in Washington is made by the American people. In wisdom and statesmanship it compares favorably with the governments of the states * * *'

Children's Eyes Are on Kentucky

"The children of the country and those who believe in their protection have their eyes on the Kentucky Legislature.

"I hope it will not be said that the members of the Kentucky Legislature are not just as anxious to protect the children of the Nation as have been the Legislatures of the twenty States that have adopted the Child Labor Amendment."

Fox Exposes Company Union Promoted By Puget Sound Ship and Tug Owners

Tacoma, Wash.—Captain John M. Fox, secretary and business agent of Local No. 4, Masters, Mates and Pilots of America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and the Ferryboatmen's Union of Puget Sound, gave an interesting account, at a large meeting in the Labor Temple here, of the benefits which these organizations provide for their members.

Employers Control Company Union

Captain Fox titled the list from the Masters, Mates and Pilots Association of the Northwest, No. 1, the company union which he said is organized by, for and of the companies engaged in tow boat and shipping activities on Puget Sound. He declared that the association is dominated by the companies in any one of the activities, adding: "The policies of this association are controlled by the companies, not by the men."

In referring to the so-called agreement recently set up by the company union, Captain Fox declared that it was dictated not by the delegates but by employers, more than half of the men not knowing a thing about it. He gave instructive details showing the damage done to the members by the fake union and stressed the necessity of building up a strong bona fide labor organization.

It must be understood, he pointed out, that any man presenting a card of the Masters, Mates and Pilots Association of the Northwest, No. 1, is not presenting a union card. His only affiliation is with the employer. He has no account should such a card be recognized.

A. F. of L. Unions

The real unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. and central labor bodies in the Northwest, Captain Fox said, are the Masters, Mates and Pilots of America, No. 6, and the Ferryboatmen's Union of Puget Sound. They are an intrinsic part of the national labor movement and are in no sense like the departments and well and soundly organized on trade union principles. Their headquarters are in Seattle, Room 310, Maritime building. They are the only unions affecting the seafaring men under their jurisdiction in the northwest.

A. F. of L. 1934 Convention Will Meet In San Francisco's Civic Auditorium

Whitcomb Hotel Selected for Executive Council's Headquarters and Conventions of Federation's Departments.

Washington.—The 1934 convention of the American Federation of Labor will be held in the Civic Auditorium, San Francisco, Calif., next fall, and the Whitcomb Hotel will be the headquarters of the Executive Council, Frank Morrison, secretary of the Federation, announced on his return to Washington from his trip to the Golden State. Headquarters will be the Stock and a half from the convention hall.

The conventions of the Metal Trades, Building Trades, and the Union Trades Department of the Federation will be held at the Whitcomb Hotel the week preceding the A. F. of L. convention.

John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer of the Metal Trades Department accompanied Mr. Morrison.

LOWELL'S CHILD LABOR BRAINSTORM CRITICIZED

New York.—The recent attack on the Child Labor Amendment to the Federal Constitution made by Abbott Lawrence Lowell, President Emeritus of Harvard University, brought a sharp retort from George J. Hecht of the Parent's Magazine here.

Dr. Lowell visioned all sorts of terrible results that would happen to the right of child labor organizations to rate the bodies and brains of children into profits in case the legislatures of 5-7 States should adopt the Amendment which gives to Congress the power to limit, regulate and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age.

"Dr. Lowell's assertion that Congress might prohibit the labor of all persons under 18 years, even in the worthiest of preventing students from earning their way through college, is fantastic," Mr. Hecht said. "Not by the wildest flight of the imagination can it be supposed that Congress would ever consider such legislation."

In answer to Dr. Lowell's assertion that the Amendment would prohibit children from doing "chores" for their parents Mr. Hecht said: "This fear implies an utter lack of faith in Congress and our representative form of government and entirely overlooks the fact that such State now has far greater power than this amendment would give to Congress. The States have not abused this power."

H. C. FRICK COMPANY SIGNS UNION PACT WITH UNITED MINE WORKERS

Contract Ends Captive Mines Controversy—Includes Dues Check-Off and Election of Check Weighmen by Miners.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Officials of the United Mine Workers of America and the H. C. Frick Coke Company reached an agreement on wages, hours, checks, "mine" controversy in Western Pennsylvania, thus ending the major cause of months of bickering and sporadic outbreaks among the miners.

The contract signed by both parties follows in general the decision of the National Labor Board that duly elected representatives of the mine workers must be dealt with in collective bargaining.

The contract identifies John L. Lewis, Philip Murray and other officers and local United Mine Workers' officers as representatives of the workmen.

"We have reached an agreement in the captive tonnage situation," Thomas Mills, president of the Frick company, announced at his office. Three other mine companies were present.

The United Mine Workers were represented by John O'Leary, international board member; district officers and Vice President Murray, who conducted most of the negotiations with Mr. Mills.

Mr. Murray gave out copies of the agreement and termed it "a signal victory for the principles of unionism of the union."

Its immediate application is to mines of the United States Steel Corporation, Maxwell, Gates, Colonial No. 1, and Filbert of the H. C. Frick; No. 1 and 3 of the National Mining Company, and Nos. 2 and 5 of the Sharon Coal and Limestone.

These employ about 5,000 men. In the Western Pennsylvania field between 15,000 and 18,000 miners are employed in "captive" mines in ordinary times.

The agreement covers wages, hours, check weighman and the like the contract reads:

Provided, however, that nothing in the foregoing shall be construed to deny to any employee not a member of the United Mine Workers of America the right to make voluntary assignments of his wages for dues or payments to any organization of which he may be a member, or for any other purpose."

Provision is made for the miners to select their own check weighman whose wages will be collected through the pay office from the wages of the miners semi-monthly upon a statement of time made by the check weighman and approved by the mine committee.

Men not employed at the mine may be selected as check weighman upon mutual agreement. Dues will also be collected at the mine office out of wages.

As in straight United Mine Workers contracts, the right to hire and fire and the management of the mine are reserved to the operator. A mine committee of three is set up to adjust disputes.

Premier Dolfuss' Warfare Against Austrian Workers Flayed by Green

Washington.—Severe condemnation of the outrageous warfare waged by Premier Dulfuss against Austrian Socialists and workers was expressed by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a statement on the Austrian situation:

Mr. Green said:

"The inhuman persecution of the Socialists and working people of Austria has aroused the righteous indignation of all the working people in our country.

"It seems inconceivable that those in charge of, and responsible for government, would countenance an onslaught with artillery firing upon apartment houses in which men, women and children reside.

"The rules of war which apply to wars between nations prohibit such a cruel onslaught upon defenseless women and children as the press reports show was practiced by the troops who were acting under the instructions of Premier Dollfuss.

"Labor in America would be untrue to itself if it did not vigorously protest against such inhuman attacks as were recently made upon the working people of Austria.

"I hope the working people of the nation will, in a proper and effective way, voice their own protests generally through governmental and publicity channels so that those responsible for the murder of innocent men, women and children in Austria, may know of the feeling, as well as the protests of the people of the people throughout the United States, against the atrocities inflicted upon the masses of the people of Austria."

NRA CODE CHISELERS PAY BACK WAGE BILLS

Detroit Truck Drivers Strike for Union Recognition and Higher Wages

Detroit, Mich.—The influence of organized labor in compelling NRA concerns who chiseled code wages to reburse the workers for the amounts originally withheld from them is well illustrated in Detroit.

Coal Drivers Local Union No. 247 of the American Federation of Labor, Coal Company, which paid its employees from 25 to 30 cents an hour instead of the 40 cents an hour which became effective under the President's reemployment agreement, has recently established the union to figure the exact amount due them since the firm signed the NRA agreement.

As a result of the union's intervention, the company paid up to the men various amounts due them ranging from 25 to 75 cents a day for the days the men were employed 45 hours per week. The company agreed to pay the entire amount after a strike threat tied up delivery of coal for almost a week. Thereafter the firm made up the union scale.

The Washington Creamery is another Detroit concern which has been compelled to do the right thing by its employes in accordance with an order of the NRA Compliance Board which found the company guilty of underpaying its employes. The board ordered the creamery officials to pay certain workers back wages running from $15 to $103.67.

Antiunion Coal Concerns Shortweight Consumers

The Coal Drivers' Union is also busily engaged in bringing the G. and T. Hurley Company and the Lake Coal and Dock Company into line for decent hours and wages for their employes. The employes of these concerns struck for increased wages and recognition of the union. In a strike bulletin the union officials point out that the Police Department discovered that one of the Hurley Company's strike breakers did not have a driver's license. The police immediately fined him $ 25 and took his truck standing in the street.

The Lake Coal and Dock Company was recently charged with defrauding one of its domestic consumers by short weight. The evidence showed that the load was short 284 pounds. The company paid the consumer for the loss and imposed a heavy fine.

The Coal Truck Drivers' Union believes that both of these concerns will ultimately sign up with the union.

ONE HOUSE LEGISLATURE IN NEBRASKA IS URGED

Sen. Norris Says Efficiency Demands Abolition of Bi-cameral System

Washington.—Senator George L. Norris of Nebraska believes that the one house legislative body is an improvement over the bi-cameral system. He sent now in operation in our 48 States and in the Federal Government.

He is so thoroughly convinced of its superior efficiency that he contemplates going to his home State and make a campaign in favor of a constitutional amendment to substitute a single legislative body of from 35 to 50 members for the present senate and house.

Senator Norris said that members of the new legislature would give their entire time to the job and would not make more than $7,500 a year. They would be elected for four years on a nonpartisan ballot.

He explained that the single legislative body would be a representative body, devoted entirely to the interest of the people rather than to a political party. In four years the members would have time to familiarize themselves with affairs of State. They would become too well informed to be easily "fooled" by the lobbyist.

"The citizen would be able to place absolute responsibility where it properly belongs," he said. "It would thus be easy to punish those whose records are unsatisfactory and to reward those whose services are meritorious."

N. Y. LEGISLATURE GETS POOR MAN'S COURT PLAN

Governor Lehman and Jurists Approve Speedy Justice in Settling Small Claims

Albany, N. Y.—A conference of Governor Lehman with the presiding justices of the Appellate Divisions were members of the Commission on the Administration of Justice, unanimously agreed on the creation of some form of small claims court to insure more speedy and equitable justice for poor persons.

Governor Lehman pointed out that he and his conferees were in sympathy with the proposal to create judicial machinery which would insure to persons concerned with court cases another and speedier, less costly form of justice stripped of many of the technicalities of the present court procedure.

It was explained that Massachusetts has established a new procedure dealing with small claims and in England and other countries such tribunals relieve the congestion in the regular courts will be studied before any definite plan is outlined for the poor man's court in New York.

In a statement outlining the plan, Senator John L. Buckley, chairman of the commission on the Administration of Justice, said:

"Proposals along this line have been offered for years by responsible groups, and it is now expected that immediate action can be secured which will permit judges to dispense with technical restrictions in small claims cases involving less than $50.

"There is growing recognition that much popular dissatisfaction with the courts springs from unnecessary technicalities which have no necessary place in trying small claims cases. At the conference there was almost unanimous agreement upon the major recommendations of the commission, which were extensively discussed."

REDS SCHEME TO CONTROL CZECHOSLOVAKIAN UNIONS

Communist Minority Adopts Policy of Boring from Within

Prague, Czechoslovakia.—The red trade unions in Czechoslovakia have lost 40 per cent of their dues payers in count of their negative policy, but the Communist Party continues its policy of inciting the workers against the free trade unions even though the conditions under which the workers should have but one fee. Their whole strength is thus frittered away in the struggle against bona fide labor organizations.

Reports from within by minority groups of communists to secure leadership in the trade union movement is the best policy of the communist party in its turn. This is disclosed in a recent resolution adopted by the National Office of the Communist Party in which a special section is devoted to the organizing of a wide opposition movement in the Reformist Trade Union.

The following excerpt from the resolution clearly outlines the subversive policy of the Reds:

"The organized communists form groups in the reformist organizations, with the aim of showing that they hold the rank and file communists in the unions, and the more advanced workers outside the party. Within the reformist organizations the opposition groups then will organize for all posts which are now filled by election, so that they may obtain the leadership of the whole local or district organization against the policy of the Social-Fascist leaders of the unions. Thus the united front with the communists and red trade unions, based on the principles of the Red International of Labour Unions. In other words, the opposition groups are part of the red trade union movement."

Property Test for Franchise Opposed by Montreal Unions

Montreal, Canada.—The Montreal Trades and Labor Council registered a strong protest against the reestablishment of the old property qualification for voting in the forthcoming election of the mayor and members of the executive committee.

TIMES-UNION EMPLOYES VOTE FOR UNION SHOP

Jacksonville Newspaper Has Been Enemy of Organized Labor for 28 Years, But Poll of Composing Room Endorses Collective Bargaining Through Typographical Union.

Jacksonville, Fla.—A majority of the composing room employes of the Florida Times-Union, a daily newspaper of Jacksonville, voted for the International Typographical Union as their representative in collective bargaining, in accordance with the National Industrial Recovery Act.

The election was held under the auspices of the Labor Relations Board, which was called upon to intervene in the matter by the management of the newspaper had refused to recognize a representative of the Typographical Union as the collective representative of the majority of the composing room employes.

Thomas W. Finn, conciliator of the National Labor Board, conducted the investigation of the controversy and the poll of the employes. He was commended by both parties for his impartiality and fairness.

The action taken is the new post office here and in strict compliance with the letter and spirit of the labor section of the National Industrial Recovery Act.

Members of the Typographical Union are elated over the election, which proved their contention that a large majority of the employes favored collective bargaining and the Typographical Union as their representative.

The Times-Union, which is nationally known as one of the strongholds of anti-union employers, through its subdivision of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, has successfully opposed union organization of its composing room employes for 28 years. Under the collective bargaining provision of the National Recovery Act the composing room employes have enrolled in a bona fide trade union.

NEW HAVEN JURY CONVICTS FACTORY STRIKE PICKETS

New Haven, Conn.—The jury in the Court of Common Pleas here after two hours deliberation, found a Yale student, a Boston Labor leader, and a New Haven workman guilty of breach of the peace for picketing a strike-bound factory strike a number of weeks ago.

Judge Walter M. Pickett imposed fines of $10 on the student and $5 on the others. In passing sentence the Judge referred to mass meetings as "publicity efforts" to raise the "class issue."

"The action of the jury and Judge Pickett should be a warning against a state anti-injunction law in Connecticut reflecting the same principles found in the Norris-La Guardia Federal anti-injunction law which prohibits United States courts from issuing injunctions in labor disputes and specifically prohibits injunctions prohibiting peaceful picketing.

Drive Against Stock Fraud Blocks Worthless Securities

New York.—Ambrose V. McCall, Assistant State Attorney General in charge of the Bureau of Securities, cautioned investors from small towns and cities to be wary of salesmen trying to sell worthless securities by telephone.

He called attention to the fact that last week the Bureau of Securities obtained injunctions against Brooklyn and Queens against salesmen who are said to have disposed of worthless securities "by using high-pressure salesmanship."

Mr. McCall pointed out that the public was welcome at any time to communicate with the Bureau concerning salesmen or stock transactions before paying out any money, and said that any complaint made to the bureau would receive prompt attention.

EMPLOYERS FLOUT WOMEN'S WAGE LAW

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.—The accumulation of evidence that employers in British Columbia are continuing their wholesale violations of the minimum wage act by paying many women at a rate less than required by law leads to the belief that a drastic increase of penalties must be made if the employers expected by the law are to be protected.

This conclusion is revealed by the report of Adam Bell, Deputy Minister of Labor, who declares that in the last year, through the Department of Labor, the minimum wage board, the sum of $2,846.51 was collected from employers to girls who had been paid wages below the amounts to which they were legally entitled.

Organized labor in British Columbia urges the Government to amend the law so that jail sentences will be imposed upon employers for either second or third offenses.

The unions also claim that some provision must be made to protect employes who inform the authorities of employer violations of the law. Frequently happens that workers who do this find themselves discharged as soon as employers discover who made the complaints.

COLPOYS IS APPOINTED UNITED STATES MARSHAL

Washington.—John B. Colpoys, for many years prominent in trade union circles, here, was nominated by President Roosevelt to be United States marshal for the District of Columbia.

It expressed that the Senate will promptly confirm the nomination.

Mr. Colpoys has been a resident of Washington since 1890. He is editor and publisher of the Trades Unionist and was the collective bargaining Central Committee. For five years he was president of the Central Labor Union here and for 15 years a member of the legislative committee of that organization.

In addition to his work in the field of organized labor, Mr. Colpoys has been active in community affairs. He is a charter member of the Society of Social Hygiene and has been a trustee of the Community Chest since its beginning. He is also a member and director of the Citizens' Joint Committee on National Representation, which seeks the enactment of legislation to give the voteless citizens of the District of Columbia representation in the Congress of the United States.

30-Hour Week by Law to Make Jobs For Idle Millions Urged by Green

Average 40-Hour Week Prescribed in NRA Codes Leaves 10,750,000 Permanently Unemployed, A. F. of L. Chief Tells House Labor Committee—Employers Continue to Slaughter Jobs with Labor-Displacing Machinery.

Automobile Code, with 91,000 Jobless in the Industry When the Work Week Was Increased from 35 to 40 Hours, Cited as Positive Proof That Congress Must Make the 30-Hour Week Mandatory in the National Recovery Act.

Washington.—The immediate enactment of a Federal law making the 30-hour week mandatory in all codes of fair competition established under the National Industrial Recovery Act was urged by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in his testimony before the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives in favor of the 30-hour week bill sponsored by Representative Connery, of Massachusetts, chairman of the committee.

Mr. Green stressed the continued and increasing presence of over ten and one-half million working men and women in the army of the permanently jobless and the failure of the long work week in most of the codes to adequately remedy the distressing situation as abundant evidence warranting Congress in the exercise to the limit its power under the Constitution to provide for the general welfare by imposing on all the whole own and control industry the legal responsibility of reducing the hours of labor so as to take the jobless millions from the breadlines of hunger and the garbage cans of charity and restore to them their inherent right to earn a living for themselves and their families.

Asks Compulsory Hours Law

Asked by Chairman Connery whether he preferred to have Congress enact a law expressing its belief that the 30-hour week should be applied and leaving the application to the President or the Recovery Administrator, or a clear law making the 30-hour week mandatory by act of Congress after a reasonable preliminary period, Mr. Green replied that the discretionary shorter work week authorized by the Recovery Act had not worked satisfactorily as a remedy for unemployment, only 15 out of 324 codes approved up to January 29 having provided for less than the 40-hour week.

"I am of the opinion," he said, "that Congress should exercise its authority in the matter. The Labor Committee should report the Connery bill promptly and the Congress should promptly pass it."

Technological Unemployment

In opening his argument for the imperative necessity of the 30-hour week by statute law Mr. Green emphasized the great increase in unemployment resulting from the wholesale introduction of labor-displacing machinery and speeded by those who own and control industry.

Pointing out that according to reliable statistics there was a net increase of over 650,000 in the number of unemployed between 1919 and 1927, and that the number had reached over two million in 1929, he continued.

Efficiency Cuts Work Time

"This high level of unemployment, in our most prosperous years, is not surprising. The efficiency of our workers had been so increased by labor-saving devices that in the decade from 1919 to 1929 we produced for the average man to produce the same amount of work in our factories was reduced from 55 to 54 a week. There was no corresponding shortening the workhours during this period, so that in spite of this reduction in work-time, amounting to 18 hours a week, the actual work-week declined only by two hours.

"Since 1929 this increase in efficiency has continued at an even more rapid rate. Production per worker per hour in our factories increased 13 per cent from 1929 to 1932. Consequently, our residue of unemployment now is even greater than it was in 1929.

Employers Lengthen Work Week

"An industrial recovery movement we have a danger to guard against. Employers will be eager to lengthen work hours as their operations expand. It will be easier to work the force they have for a longer work-day and work-week than to take on new workers and create jobs for the unemployed.

"In previous depressions it has been our experience that work-hours were lengthened as soon as business activity started to increase. For instance, in 1921, at a time when 21 per cent of our workers in manufacturing were in establishments where the prevailing hours of work were 44 per week or under. But by 1923 this number had been reduced to 46 per cent, because employers had lengthened hours, and 5 per cent more were working up to 54 or even 60 hours a week.

Immediate 30-Hour Week

"We do not want this to happen as we come out of the present depression. We do not want to lose the gains we have made. Adjustments in work hours are still far from complete, and the technological unemployment created by new machinery. In order to complete this adjustment we must establish a 30-hour week now. This is my honest and sincere belief.

Long Hours in Automobile Industry

Stressing the importance of making the 30-hour week mandatory by law, Mr. Green cited the automobile industry code to illustrate the inadequacy of code hours to meet the problem of jobs for over ten million unemployed. He said:

"This is perhaps no better illustration of the need of a drastic reduction in hours of work than that afforded by the automobile manufacturing industry.

"The code as originally adopted provided for an average work week of 35 hours, with a provision that 48 hours might be worked in any one week. Everyone knows that the automobile manufacturing industry is one in which employment is concentrated in a relatively short season of the year. It is entirely possible, therefore, for men to work 48 hours per week during the peak season and still average not more than 35 hours during the period in which hours may be averaged because they are laid off for a large part of the year.

Johnson Increases Hours

"The automobile industry in December, 1933, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, was working an average of only 32.6 hours per week; yet on January 5, 1934, the average weekly hours of work, for the period from January to September, 1933, were extended to forty.

"In the release announcing this extension of hours, General Johnson stated that the contemplated increase in automobile production in the spring of 1934 would, under the present average of 32 hours per week, probably result in again attracting a considerable number of men to the mills and other automobile manufacturing centers, who would be without jobs after the spring period of hard work had passed."

91,419 Jobless Auto Workers

"Yet in January, 1934, according to reports received by the United States Employment Offices in twenty-four parts of the country, there were 91,419 men registered for work, who were still looking for jobs, whose registration cards showed experience in automobile factories.

"Of these 91,419 men, some 73,000 were registered with the Emergency Relief Service as being in the State of Michigan—largely, of course, in the Detroit area, centering in the Ford, Pontiac and Flint.

"On the same date 16 unions of automobile workers, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor reported that 29 per cent of their membership was unemployed and looking for work, not engaged on Civil Works Administration projects or receiving relief.

29,884 Families on Relief

"On January 15, 1934, reports from the Civil Works Administration Director for the Detroit area revealed 60,820 persons in that area engaged on Civil Works Administration projects, and 29,884 Federal Emergency Relief Administration on the same day reported that 29,884 families on relief in the towns of Detroit, Pontiac and Flint. Yet, let me repeat, the average hours of work in the automobile industry in December, 1933, was only 32.6 per week.

Productivity of Labor Increases

"Technological changes in automobile manufacturing industry have been very great even since 1929. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that productivity per worker has increased so much since 1929 that the 1929 output can be produced with 5 per cent fewer man hours. And it will undoubtedly be some time before we can expect an output equal to that of 1929.

40-Hour Week Absolutely Necessary

"It should be apparent, then, that even the 30-hour week is not going to solve the problem of unemployment in all industries. Undoubtedly many persons formerly attached to the automobile industry, for example, will have to be absorbed into other industries, through a general shortening of the work week in the automobile industry. Statistics estimates, further, that the automobile production of 1933 could have been doubled on a work-week of 32 hours, if the average number of wage earners employed in the industry in 1929 were again employed.

"Obviously, under the 30-hour week, therefore, can be considered as in any way meeting the emergency which exists not only in the automobile industry but in almost every other industry as well."

Equalization of Wages and Working Conditions Planned by Textile Union

Pawtucket, R. I.—The plan of the American Federation of Labor to equalize wages and general working conditions in the textile industry in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Massachusetts is making good progress, according to James W. Lynch, who was recently appointed by President Thomas J. McMahon to carry on work for the equalization program in New England.

Mr. Green has been the representative of the Typhe Workers in Paterson, N. J., for a number of years and is well known throughout the New England textile industry, having been employed a dozen years ago in Fall River, where he started his first duties. He will be centered in Pawtucket, Woonsocket, Providence, Fall River and New Bedford, and will be employed in conjunction with Vice President Frank J. Gorman, of the Amalgamated Textile Workers. Powers to forward the equalization proposal.

He expressed the belief that because the textile workers in these cities are well organized, it will be comparatively easy to convince manufacturers of the importance of equalizing wages and working conditions, which will enable them to meet the principles of the National Recovery Act regarding fair competition. One element in the plan will be the elimination of chiseling, which is still carried on by some manufacturers and greatly endangers the future of the Rhode Island textile industry.